

1. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting a carrier for shipment of a package from an origin to a destination based on carrier specific delivery commitment information using a server, the method comprising:

selecting, using the server, a service level supported by the carrier for delivery of the package from the origin to the destination ,

selecting, using the server, a class of service for delivery of the package,

based upon the selected class of service for the package, using the server to determine determining a service column index value,

based upon the service level supported by the carrier for delivery of the package from the origin to the destination and the determined service column index value, locating, using the server, a specific cell in a delivery commitment matrix comprised of a plurality of cells stored in the server, wherein each cell contains delivery commitment information for that carrier for the selected service level and selected class of service,

reading, using the server, said delivery commitment information for that carrier from the specific cell,

selecting the carrier for shipment of the package, using the server, if the delivery commitment information for that carrier from the specific cell corresponds to a desired delivery commitment for shipment of the package,

verifying, using the server, said delivery commitment information relative to a real time clock to produce verified delivery commitment information,

if said verified delivery commitment information is at a time later than a pre-determined cut-off time, posting a notification of said later time, and

determining whether or not said selected carrier and/or said selected service level is to be maintained or whether an alternative carrier and/or alternative service level is to be selected.

1 11. (Currently Amended) A system for selecting a carrier for shipment of a
2 package from an origin to a destination based on carrier specific commitment
3 data comprising:

4 a server;

5 a plurality of software components stored in the server, the plurality of
6 software components comprising:

7 means for causing the server to select selecting a service level
8 supported by the carrier for delivery of the package from the origin to the
9 destination,

10 means for causing the server to select selecting a class of service
11 for delivery of the package,

12 means for causing the server to determine determining a service
13 column index value based upon the selected class of service for the
14 package,

15 means, based upon the service level supported by the carrier for
16 delivery of the package from the origin to the destination and the
17 determined service column index value, for causing the server to locate
18 locating a specific cell in a delivery commitment matrix comprised of a
19 plurality of cells stored in the server, wherein each cell contains delivery
20 commitment information for that carrier for the selected service level and
21 selected class of service ,

22 means for causing the server to read reading said delivery
23 commitment information for that carrier from the specific cell,

24 means for causing the server to select selecting the carrier for
25 shipment of the package if the delivery commitment information for that
26 carrier from the specific cell corresponds to a desired delivery commitment
27 for shipment of the package,

28 means for causing the server a real-time clock to verify said
29 delivery commitment information using a real time clock to produce
30 verified delivery commitment information, and

31 means for causing the server to provide ~~posting~~ a notification of
32 said later time and determining whether or not said selected carrier and/or
33 said selected service level is to be maintained or whether an alternative
34 carrier and/or alternative service level is to be selected if said verified
35 delivery commitment information is at a time later than a pre-determined
36 cut-off time.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~determining~~ selecting a carrier for shipment of a package from an origin to a destination based on carrier specific delivery commitment information data for the shipment of a package from an origin to a destination by a carrier, comprising the steps of:

(a) ~~determining the destination area for the package based upon its intended destination,~~

(b) ~~determining the~~ selecting a service level supported by the carrier for delivery of the package from the origin to the destination area,

(c) ~~selecting~~ determining a desired class of service for delivery of the a package ~~with respect to its delivery by the carrier,~~

(d) based upon the selected ~~determined~~ class of service for the package, determining a service column index value,

(e) based upon the service level supported by the carrier for delivery of the package from the origin to the destination area and the determined service column index value ~~class of service desired~~, locating a specific cell in a delivery commitment matrix comprised of a plurality of cells, wherein each cell contains the delivery commitment information for that carrier for the selected ~~specified~~ service level and selected class of service desired, and

(f) reading said delivery commitment information for that carrier from ~~for the specific specified cell,~~

selecting the carrier for shipment of the package if the delivery commitment information for that carrier from the specific cell corresponds to a desired delivery commitment for shipment of the package.

verifying said delivery commitment information relative to a real time clock to

produce verified delivery commitment information,

if said verified delivery commitment information is at a time later than a pre-determined cut-off time, posting a notification of said later time, and

determining whether or not said selected carrier and/or said selected service level is to be maintained or whether an alternative carrier and/or alternative service level is to be selected.

2. (Currently Amended) The A method of for determining carrier specific commitment data as defined in claim 1, wherein the service column index value values and class of service services are maintained in a token map.

3. Canceled.

4. (Currently Amended) The A method of for determining carrier specific commitment data as defined in claim 2, wherein service levels supported by a carrier are maintained in a destination map, wherein for each destination area supported by the carrier, information is stored in a location of the destination map related to the service level supported by the carrier for that destination area.

5. (Currently Amended) The A method of for determining carrier specific commitment data as defined in claim 4, wherein the destination map has a location for each postal ZIP code and wherein a code is stored in each such the location for each postal ZIP code.

6. (Currently Amended) The A method of for determining carrier specific commitment data as defined in claim 5, wherein a null code is stored in each destination map postal ZIP code location which is not supported by the carrier.

7-10. Canceled.

11. (Currently Amended) A system for selecting a carrier for shipment of a package from an origin to a destination based on determining carrier specific commitment data for the shipment of a package from an origin to a destination by a carrier, comprising:

~~(a) means for determining the destination area for the package based upon its intended destination,~~

~~(b) means for selecting a ~~determining the~~ service level supported by the carrier for delivery of the package from the origin to the destination area,~~

~~(c) means for selecting ~~determining a desired~~ class of service for delivery of ~~thea package with respect to its delivery by the carrier,~~~~

~~(d) means, based upon the determined class of service for the package, for determining a service column index value based upon the selected class of service for the package,~~

~~(e) means, based upon the service level supported by the carrier, for delivery of the package from the origin to the destination area and the determined service column index value ~~class of service desired,~~ for locating a specific cell in a delivery commitment matrix comprised of a plurality of cells, wherein each cell contains the delivery commitment information for that carrier for the selected specified service level and selected class of service desired, and~~

~~(f) means for reading said delivery commitment information for that carrier from ~~for the~~ specific specified cell,~~

~~means for selecting the carrier for shipment of the package if the delivery commitment information for that carrier from the specific cell corresponds to a desired delivery commitment for shipment of the package,~~

~~a real time clock to verify said delivery commitment information to produce verified delivery commitment information, and~~

~~means for posting a notification of said later time and determining whether or not said selected carrier and/or said selected service level is to be maintained or whether an alternative carrier and/or alternative service level is to be selected if said~~

verified delivery commitment information is at a time later than a pre-determined cut-off time.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The A system of for determining carrier specific commitment data as defined in~~ claim 11, wherein the service column index value values and class of service services are maintained in a token map.

13. Canceled.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The A system of for determining carrier specific commitment data as defined in~~ claim 12, wherein service levels supported by a carrier are maintained in a destination map, wherein for each destination area supported by the carrier, information is stored in a location of the destination map related to the service level supported by the carrier for that destination-area.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The A system of for determining carrier specific commitment data as defined in~~ claim 14, wherein the destination map has a location for each postal ZIP code and wherein a code is stored in ~~each such~~ the location for each postal ZIP code.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of A method for determining carrier specific commitment data as defined in~~ claim 15, wherein a null code is stored in each destination map postal ZIP code location which is not supported by the carrier.

17-20. Canceled.